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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6449
INFO RUHQHQ QA/C INCPAC
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3189
RUMJPG/USDAO PEKING 8586
RUKOQS/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 5346
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TAGS: PGOV, PINR, PINT, GH, TW, US

SUBJECT: CHINA HIGHLIGHTS, NO. 25

1. SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO PEKING

SECRETARY VANCE'S AUGUST 22, 23 AND 24 MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA WERE NOTED WITHOUT CHARACTERIZATION BY NCNA WHICH DESCRIBED HIS AUGUST 24 TALKS WITH VICE-PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AS "SERIOUS AND CANDID." HONG KONG'S PRC-CONTROLLED PAPERS HAVE NOT RECOMMENDED ON THE LACK OF POLITBURO-LEVEL PARTICIPATION IN TBENCIRST TWO DAYS' TALKS, BUT ONE OF THESE PAPERS, THE "NEW EVENING POST", SAID ON AUGUST 24 THAT WHETHER OR NOT CHAIRMAN HUA SAW THE SECRETARY "WOULD DEPEND ON THE U.S. SIDE'S ATTITUDE." OTHER COMMENTS IN THESE PAPERS, AND BY LOCAL PRC CADRE, HAVE BEEN TO THE EFFECT THAT CHINA HAS STATED ITS POSITION ON NORMALIZATION AND IT WAS NOW UP TO THE U.S. TO SHOW SINCERITY, REALISM AND SERIOUSNESS. REPORTS OF THE TALKS THUS FAR HAVE REDUCED LOCAL EXPECTATIONS OF PROGRESS IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS.

2. ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS

A. CHINA'S ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS MET FROM AUGUST 12 TO 18. IT APPROVED A NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION AND A NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH ON THE 19TH ELECTED THE PARTY'S POLITBURO AND SELECTED FOUR VICE CHAIRMEN TO JOIN CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG ON THE STANDING COMMITTEE: PREVIOUS VICE CHAIRMEN YEH CHIEN-YING AND TENG HSIAO-PING PLUS Li HSJEN-NIEN AND HANG TUN HSING. BATH

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VETERANS WITH LONG POLITBURO AND PARTY SERVICE. TECHNO-CRATS, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, FADED BEST IN THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHILE MASS REPRESENTATIVES AND MODEL WORKERS TOOK THE BIGGEST CUTS.

B. STABILITY, UNITY, DISCIPLINE AND MODERNIZATION WERE KEY DOMESTIC THEMES, HUA'S POLITICAL REPORT ALSO JUSTIFIED AT LENGTH THE PRC'S CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY.

C. TENG HSIAO-PING'S CONCLUDING SPEECH, WITH ITS FREQUENT REFERENCES TO REVIVING THE PARTY'S OLD TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES, PERHAPS SUMMED UP BEST THE SPIRIT OF THE CONGRESS. AMONG THE PRACTICES REVIVED: "COMMISSIONS FOR INSPECTING DISCIPLINE" AND DETAILED DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES WHICH HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PARTY CONSTITUTION DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING, REPORTING TO THE CONGRESS ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, INTIMATED THAT A CONTINUED PARTY PURGE WOULD BE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE "BAD TYPES WHO HAVE SNEAKED INTO THE PARTY" AMONG THE 7 MILLION MEMBERS ADDED SINCE 1973. TO PREVENT A RECURRANCE OF THIS "CRASH ADMITTANCE", A ONE-YEAR PROBATION HAS BEEN INSTITUTED FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS.

3. POSSIBLE NEW COMMANDER IN CANTON

YANG YUNG, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE SINKIANG MILITARY REGION, HAS BEEN RANKED FIRST IN A LIST OF KWANGTUNG MILITARY AND PARTY OFFICIALS IN PEKING. THIS SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY BE THE NEW CANTON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER. IF YANG NOW HAS REPLACED HSU SHI-YU AS CANTON'S MILITARY BOSS, HSU MAY SOON BE NAMED AS DEFENSE MINISTER OR CHIEF OF STAFF. THIS SHIFT WOULD BRING TO PEKING ALL OF THE CHINA'S OLD MARSHALS, AND PUT THE PLA IN AN EVEN STRONGER POSITION TO INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS.

CROSS

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